

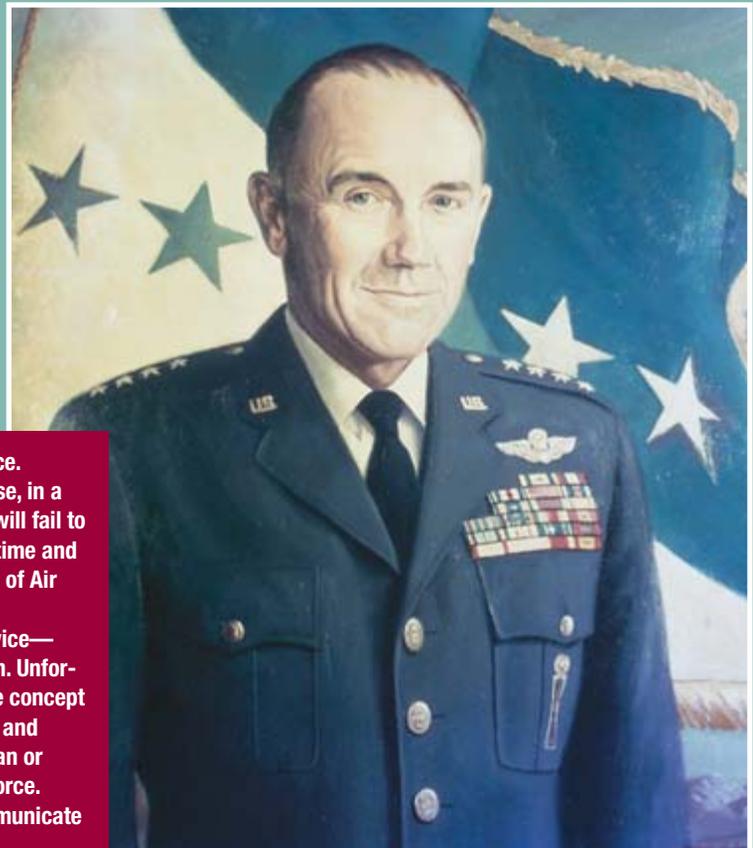
General John Dale Ryan

(1915–1983)

Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force

VITA

Born in Cherokee, Iowa; graduated from U.S. Military Academy (1938); attended flying school, Randolph and Kelly Air Fields (1938–39); flight instructor, Kelly Air Field (1939–42); directed training, Midland Army Air Field; established advanced bombardier training school (1942–43); operations officer, Second Air Force, Colorado Springs (1943–44); commander, 2^d Bombardment Group; served as operations officer, 15th Bombardment Wing, Fifteenth Air Force, Italy (1944–45); deputy base commander, Midland Army Air Field (1945); Air Training Command, Fort Worth and Randolph Field (1945–46); assigned to 58th Bombardment Wing and participated in Bikini Atoll atomic weapons tests (1946); assistant chief of staff for pilots, 58th Bombardment Wing; director of operations, Eighth Air Force; commander, 509th Bombardment Wing (1946–48); commander, 97th Bombardment Wing (1948–51); commander, 810th Air Division and 19th Air Division (1951–56); director of matériel, Strategic Air Command (1956–60); commander, Sixteenth Air Force, Spain (1960–61); commander, Second Air Force (1961–63); inspector general, U.S. Air Force (1963–64); vice commander and commander in chief, Strategic Air Command (1964–67); commander, Pacific Air Forces (1967–68); Vice Chief of Staff of U.S. Air Force (1968); named Chief of Staff (1968–73); died in San Antonio, Texas.



Air Force Art Collection

I have no fear that young people will not join us in national service. I believe our young people *want* desperately to serve a good cause, in a productive and imaginative way. What is to be feared is that we will fail to cut through the misapprehensions and negative noise barrier in time and degree sufficient to reveal the true dedication and service values of Air Force life.

People who have chosen the Air Force—or any military service—as a career know that the military occupation is a true profession. Unfortunately, too few people outside of our community know this. The concept of professionalism, clearly articulated, would help attract quality and stimulate eligible members of the civilian populace to seek civilian or military careers in both the active and reserve segments of the force. We need to reveal the ethics of our profession—we need to communicate what we are to the youth of the country.

—From *Air Force Magazine* (May 1971).

Portrait by
Woodi Ishmael.